

**HEALTH COMMISSION
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Health Commission 2021 Awards**

Nominated Team/Program	Names of Individual Team Members/Titles	Section/Work Unit	Nominated by:
	Read These Names		
Office of Health Equity Staff and the DPH Equity Leads	Dante King Gavin Morrow-Hall Tanya Yared Jessica Brown Alicia St. Andrews Michael Rojas Elaine Lee Richa Dhanju Nick Gonsalves Tanya Mera Nicole Joe Jennifer Carton-Wade Amie Fishman Melissa Brown Veronica Sheppard Isela Ford Robin George Andrea Turner Elizabeth Lynch	Across the Department [the Equity Leads are matrix supervised by OHE in their cross-departmental alignment and reporting roles]	Ayanna Bennett – Chief Health Equity Officer

The Equity Leads and Office of Health Equity staff kept equity organized and moving forward despite Dr. Ayanna Bennett being deployed, and even managed to grow in some areas. The Leads increased their meeting frequency, shared resources and marshalled their home teams around shared objectives despite staffing hardships, their own deployments and the necessity of moving DPH focus to COVID response. This decision by equity staff to focus on mutual support catalyzed even deeper integration of the equity objectives and resources across DPH.

Of note, this resulted in unexpected successes despite the demands of the COVID response. Areas that were less developed added staff and began deeper planning, and more developed areas achieved at least some or even all of their equity goals. Every area of the department made some forward movement during 2020 . This allowed the department to move into the Racial Equity Action Plan development process seamlessly. The fact that equity did not lose momentum in the spring of 2020 is what allowed DPH, in the summer of 2020, to harness the energy and commitment of the national conversation on racism that could have easily been missed.